

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 HA-05 /109 W
-----074808 212017Z /43

O 211902Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0164
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01008

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP EFFORTS MARCH 20

REF: (A) USUN 937, (B) STATE 69231, (C) USUN 901

1. CONTACT GROUP MET MARCH 20 TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING
ISSUES; (A) LANGUAGE ON TIMING OF SAG WITHDRAWAL;
(B) TIMETABLE FOR PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS;
(C) QUESTION OF SAG POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD IN ANGOLA;
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(D) FRENCH CONTACT WITH MS. OLGA LIMA; (E) SWAPO "TAKE-
OVER PLAN"; AND (F) DRAFT MESSAGE TO FRONTLINE, NIGERIA
AND GABON.

2. TIMING OF WITHDRAWAL OF SA TROOPS: CONTACT GROUP
AGREED MARCH 20 (UK RELUCTANTLY) THAT ORAL STATEMENT
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SAG ON THIS POINT (IN PLACE OF CHANGE

IN THE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES) AND THAT AFRICANS BE SO INFORMED. AMB MCHENRY, DRAWING ON REF B INSTRUCTIONS AND ARGUMENTS, SAID US COULD NOT AGREE THAT TALKING POINTS FOR ORAL STATEMENT TO SOUTH AFRICANS COULD BE BASED ON CONCEPT THAT FIVE WOULD "SUPPORT" SA'S ACCESSION TO A REQUEST BY CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO RETAIN TROOPS. MCHENRY OFFERED ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE OF "WOULD NOT OPPOSE..." THE UK (MURRAY) MAINTAINED ITS STRONGLY-HELD POSITION ON THIS POINT AND STATED THAT THE UK COULD NOT ACCEPT THE US ALTERNATIVE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SAG. "NOT OPPOSE" LANGUAGE GAVE SAG NO ASSURANCES THAT FIVE WOULD NOT VETO A SC RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RETENTION OF SAG TROOPS.

3. US COUNTERED THAT USE OF "SUPPORT" LANGUAGE WOULD CONTRADICT CG PROPOSALS AS NOW WRITTEN. IT WOULD NOT GAIN SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL SAG SUPPORT AND WOULD DESTROY SWAPO AND FL SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS. THE UK ACCUSED THE US OF TAKING A HARDER LINE THAN EVER BEFORE; UK HAD THOUGHT THAT THE CG HAD AGREED THAT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY COULD DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO RETAIN THE TROOPS IN THE TERRITORY. THE US DENIED THAT IT HAD EVER AGREED TO ACCORD THE ASSEMBLY THAT RIGHT. WHAT THE US ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOW WOULD SAY WAS THAT IF REPEAT IF THE ASSEMBLY IN FACT WERE TO EXERCISE THAT POWER, THE FIVE WOULD NOT OPPOSE.

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4. CANADA (LAPOINTE) SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE FORMULATION WHICH READ: "...NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROPOSAL AND THEREFORE THE FIVE WOULD NOT OPPOSE IT." THE US OPPOSED THE CANADIAN FORMULATION, ARGUING THAT EITHER IT WAS UNTRUE OR, IF IT WAS TO BE MADE TRUE, WOULD AMOUNT TO A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN THE PROPOSALS TO WHICH THE US COULD NOT AGREE. DURING THIS EXCHANGE, THE FRENCH AND GERMANS SAID THEY DID NOT OPPOSE THE US ALTERNATIVE.

5. TIMETABLE FOR PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS:
THE FIVE AGREED THAT THE FRONTLINE SHOULD RECEIVE THE PROPOSALS AT LEAST A DAY OR TWO BEFORE SWAPO AND THE SAG, BUT THAT FINAL DECISIONS ON TIMING COULD NOT EASILY BE MADE UNTIL IMPASSE ON WITHDRAWAL LANGUAGE WAS SOLVED. THE UK AGREED TO DRAFT A COVERING NOTE AND TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH THE SAG. THE US AGREED TO DRAFT A COVERING NOTE AND TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH SWAPO.
ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT. DRAFT COVERING NOTE AND TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH SWAPO.

6. WITH REGARD TO SC ACTION, THE FIVE AGREED, REGARDLESS

OF THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSALS OVER THE NEXT MONTH, TO
TAKE THE PROPOSALS TO THE SC IN APRIL, PREFERABLY BEFORE
ANY DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA IS CALLED.

7. SAG POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD IN ANGOLA: THE FIVE
AGREED NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING FOR THE
PRISONERS ON BEHALF OF THE SAG. (BOTH THE UK AND THE
US HAVE NATIONALS WHO ARE BEING HELD AS CONVICTED MER-
CENARIES BY THE ANGOLANS.) CANADA AGREED TO DRAFT BRIEF
NOTES TO THE ICRC AND TO THE SAG.

8. THE FRENCH REPORTED THAT THEY HAD APPROACHED OLGA
LIMA IN LUANDA REGARDING ANGOLA'S POSITION ON A BUFFER
ZONE ON THE ANGOLAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. LIMA HAD TAKEN
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FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

THE POINTS AND PROMISED A RESPONSE.

9. SWAPO "TAKEOVER PLAN": US SUGGESTED THAT SAG HAD WILLFULLY MISCONSTRUED "PLAN" AND RECENT NUJOMA STATEMENTS ON SWAPO INTENTIONS. US SAID THAT SAG HAD IN FACT APPROACHED FIVE ON THIS MATTER. THAT BEING THE CASE, US SUGGESTED THAT FIVE COULD NOT VERY WELL SAY THAT THEY DID NOT INTEND TO RESPOND. OTHERS RESERVED POSITIONS PENDING THEIR RECEIPT OF "TAKEOVER" DOCUMENTS.

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10. DRAFT MESSAGE TO FL, NIGERIA AND GABON: (REF C).
PARA 6: GROUP AGREED TO RETENTION OF WORD "HUMILIATING".
PARA 10: UK AGREED TO DROP ITS SUGGESTION THAT SENTENCE REFERRING TO INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA BE DELETED. GROUP AGREED THAT WHILE TRANSMISSION AT HEADS-OF-GOVERNMENT LEVEL WOULD BE BEST IF TIME ALLOWED, MESSAGE COULD BE SENT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT. REGARDING TALKING POINTS, GROUP AGREED THAT THEY SHOULD BE MADE ORALLY, ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS, AND SHOULD NOT BE HANDED OVER IN WRITING.

11. CONTACT GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN AT 10:30, MARCH 22.
COMMENT: CONTACT GROUP REMAINS AT AN IMPASSE OVER "SUPPORT" VERSUS "NOT OPPOSE" LANGUAGE FOR USE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS REGARDING CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'S (CA) RIGHT TO APPROVE RETENTION OF SA TROOPS IN NAMIBIA. UK AND US ARE AT LEAST AGREED THAT WHAT WE FACE IS NOT A QUESTION OF DRAFTING, BUT ONE OF REAL SUBSTANCE. MISSION FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT ACCEPTANCE OF UK POSITION CONTRADICTS OUR PROPOSALS, WOULD UNDERMINE CHANCES OF RETAINING SWAPO AND FL SUPPORT, AND WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE SAG SUPPORT. BRITISH BELIEVE THAT USE OF THEIR LANGUAGE IN ORAL ASSURANCE TO SOUTH AFRICANS IS NECESSARY TO RETAIN SAG SUPPORT; THEY APPARENTLY COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT ITS EFFECT ON SWAPO AND THE FL OR ITS INCONSISTENCY WITH OUR PROPOSALS. MISSION WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS ON A WAY OUT, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY WELL BE A QUESTION FOR OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DECIDE. IN ANY CASE, TRANSMISSION OF FINISHED PROPOSALS IS HUNG UP ON THIS POINT. LEONARD

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